

CLIFTON MINING DISTRICT (UTAH). RECORDER

[3136]

LOCATION NOTICES, 1869-1938.

7 microfilm reels

DESCRIPTION: The Clifton Mining District, organized in October 1869 in the Deep Creek Mountains of western Tooele County, included the mining camps Clifton and Gold Hill. Travelers and prospectors found an abundance of mineral deposits in the Deep Creek Mountains, so when Patrick Connor constructed a mill and smelter in Stockton, 125 miles to the east, mining activity in this area soon followed. The Clifton District was organized before Congress passed a general mining law in 1872. The district was founded on the assumed rights of individuals to explore and claim mineral wealth in the public domain and the tradition of organizing mining districts to manage mining operations and keep records of claims. Congress validated these rights (*Statutes at Large, Treaties, and Proclamations, of the United States of America*, vol. 17, 1872, chap. 152). Location notices in the Clifton District affirm compliance with district regulations and/or federal law. They give the name of the claim, its dimensions and location, and the names of locators. In case several locators made a single claim, as was frequently the case in early records, notices identify how many feet were allowed to each individual. Notices of location provide the date of location and the date filed and were signed by the mining district or county recorder.

While these Clifton District books primarily contain notices of location, there are some additional records and notes of interest. In the early 1870s many location notices were filed for the Clifton Mining and Smelting Company, and statements about labor performed to hold the claim were recorded on the same page as the notice of location. The bulk of Book M (Feb 1871-Jan 1873) deals with claims forfeited for non-compliance with district laws and claims declared free from forfeiture because compliance had been met. A number of the claims recorded in Book E (Feb 1882-Jul 1883) were marked 'illegal' (see description of miners' meeting minutes and comment about George W. Brown controversy). A copy of the by-laws for the Clifton District appears at the beginning of Book O (county recorder's book), and the

second half of the same book was used as a file book for the 1912 period.

Federal law required an annual assessment of labor in order to maintain claims. Generally, affidavits showing proof of labor were filed separately, but between 1903 and 1905 they were included in these books. Random deeds, agreements or other mining related documents appear throughout. In 1893-1894, 1917-1918 and 1933-1934 Congress temporarily suspended the annual labor requirement for maintaining mining claims. But, in order to take advantage of this benefit, miners were required to file notices of their intention to hold claims. While these notices were filed separately in 1893-1894, they are included among notices of location for 1917-1918 and 1933-1934. Books for these time periods also include many amended notices of location.

ARRANGEMENT: Location notices and other documents are generally chronological by date filed.

RESEARCH NOTE: Books of location notices for 1869-1897 microfilmed here are not the books originally recorded by the Clifton District recorder, but are transcripts of those books. The last transcribed book, Book K, also includes Book LL and Book B16. In this case the original Book K has been microfilmed in sequence and the transcript omitted when microfilming the remaining portion, Books LL and B16. Book T is labeled Book L, and Book V is labeled 'untitled.' Book B (1894, Jan-May) duplicates part of Proof of Labor Book B (series 24332).

RELATED RECORDS: LOCATION NOTICES INDEXES, series 24464, provide reference to the documents in these books beginning in 1898. Reference and summary information for claims recorded before 1897 is contained in FILE BOOKS, series 24333. MINERS MEETING MINUTES, series 24163, describe the activities of the district and include by-laws. The bulk of these were recorded in two hard bound books, however the minutes for 1890-1894 are in the back of Book X of this series. During the years the Tooele County recorder kept these records, (1897-1900) she filed duplicate copies of notices of location for the Clifton District in MINING RECORDS, series 6150. At the bottom of each page in the Clifton books she noted where the notice was recorded in county mining records. Additional or duplicate location notices for the Clifton District appear in the Tooele County mining records after 1900. Affidavits showing PROOF OF LABOR on Clifton District claims, series 24332, were generally filed in separate books, but a few were herein recorded. In certain years Congress temporarily suspended annual labor requirements. INTENT TO HOLD CLAIM NOTICES, series 24334, were filed in separate books in 1893-1894.

CUSTODY HISTORY: From the creation of the Clifton Mining District in 1869 until May 1897, when the Utah Legislature determined that all mining records should be transferred to county recorder's offices (*Laws of Utah*, 1897, Chapter 36), a district recorder kept the records

of the Clifton District. In 1897 the Clifton District transferred its records to the Tooele County recorder's office in compliance with the law. The Tooele County recorder kept the records until January 1900 (Book N) and then returned them to the Clifton Mining District. In 1933 the Sate Legislature acted to terminate any mining districts not complying with the law by ruling that at the end of the term of office for any mining district recorder still holding office, the district should be abolished and the office should remain vacant (*Revised Statutes of Utah Annotated*, 1933, 55-1-7). In spite of this ruling, the Clifton District recorder continued to maintain the records until 1938.

PROCESSING NOTE: Records for the Clifton Mining District were processed by Rosemary Cundiff in October 2002. Because of the poor quality of the microfilm, these records were refilmed in April 2003 and the inventory was updated.

PREFERRED CITATION: Cite the Utah State Archives and Records Service, the creating agency name, the series title, and the series number.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Description
1	1869, Jun-1871, Feb (index, Book L)
1	1871, Feb-1871, Oct (index, Book M)
1	1871, Oct-1875, May (index, Book C)
1	1875, Jun-1882, Apr (index, Book D)
1	1882, Feb-1883, Aug (index, Book E)
2	1883, Nov-1889, Mar (index, Book F)
2	1889, Mar-1891, Jan (index, Book G)
2	1891, Jan-1892, Aug (index, Book H)
2	1892, Mar-1894, Jan (index, Book I)
3	1894, Jan-1896, Jan (index, Book J)
3	1896, Apr-1897, May (index, Book K)
3	1898, Jan-1900, Jan (Book N)
3	1900, Jan (Book O; includes by laws and file entries 1909-1912)
3	1900, Jan-1901, Oct (Book L)
3	1901, Oct-Nov; 1916, Jan-Mar (Books LL and B16)
3	1902, Jan-1903, Jan (Book P)
4	1903, Jan-1904, Jan (Book Q)
4	1904, Jan-1906, Jan (Book R)
4	1906, Jan-Nov (Book S)
4	1906, Dec-1907, Mar (Book T, but labeled Book L)
4	1907, Feb-1908, Jan (Book U)
5	1908, Jan-1909, Feb (Book V, but untitled)
5	1909, Feb-1911, Jan (Book W)
5	1911, Jan-1912, Sep (Book X)

Reel	Description
5	1912, Oct-1913, Dec (Book Y)
5	1914, Jan-1915, Jan (Book Z)
5	1915, Jan-1916, Jan (Book AA)
3	1901, Oct-Nov; 1916, Jan-Mar (Books LL and B16)
6	1916, Mar-Oct (Book C16)
6	1916, Oct-1917, Feb (Book D16)
6	1917, Feb-1918, Dec (Book E17)
6	1918, Dec-1921, Jul (Book E18)
6	1921, Jul-1923, Jul (Book F21)
7	1923, Jul-1926, Jul (Book G23)
7	1926, Jul-1929, Oct (Book G26)
7	1929, Oct-1931, Jul (Book H29)
7	1931, Jul-1934, Jan (Book I31)
7	1934, Jan-1938 Jul (Book J34)